## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A composition comprising a plurality of distinct microbial species, wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:
  - (a) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
  - (b) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
  - (c) is tolerant of high temperatures;
  - (d) grows rapidly and
  - (e) proliferates on a complex substrate.
- 2. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality comprises at least one bacterial species and at least one fungal species.
- 3. The composition according to Claim 2, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 distinct microbial species.
- 4. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 bacterial species.
- 20 5. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 2 fungal species.
  - 6. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a carrier.
  - 7. The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a liquid.
  - 8. The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a solid.
- 30 9. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of microbial species has been proliferated on a complex substrate.

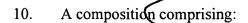
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- (a) a plurality of distinct microbial species made up of at least 5 different bacterial species and at least 2 different fungal species, wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:
  - (i) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
  - (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
  - (iii) is tolerant of high temperatures;
  - (iv) grows rapidly; and
  - (v) proliferates on a complex substrate; and
- 10 (b) a carrier.

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- 11. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a liquid.
- 12. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a solid.
- 13. In an agricultural method, the improvement comprising:
  applying to at least one of soil or plant tissue a composition according to Claim 1.
- 14. A method of producing a composition according to Claim 1, said method 20 comprising:
  - (a) identifying a plurality of microbial species that are:
    - (i) antagonistic against a plural ty of microbial pathogens;
    - (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
    - (iii) tolerant of high-temperatures;
    - (iv) grows rapidly; and
    - (v) (proliferates on a complex substrate; and
  - (b) combining said-plurality to produce said composition.
- 15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said method further comprises separately proliferating each species prior to said combining.

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- 16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said proliferating occurs in the presence of a complex substrate.
- 17. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said method further comprises combining said composition with a carrier.
  - 18. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a fluid.
  - 19. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a solid.
- 20. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said identifying comprises subjecting a candidate microbial species to a series of assays which identify whether the species has all of said (i)-(v) characteristics.